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Identical letters dated 8 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I write further to our numerous previous letters regarding Israel's refusal to implement international resolutions requiring it to withdraw from the entire occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967, and regarding its continued violation of international law and the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement. In response to the allegations concerning Syrian violations of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement contained in the identical letters dated 5 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Israel, the occupying Power, to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2018/821), I should like to state the following:

With regard to the allegations regarding Syrian civilians crossing the ceasefire line in the southern part of the area of separation: The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) command was not informed and does not have any record of these alleged incidents. The Syrian Arab Republic was not informed either, as ought to have occurred under the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement. We note that the violations listed in the letter from the representative of Israel involve individuals with whom the Israeli occupying army has established relationships, and they are a source of grave concern to us. The Disengagement of Forces Agreement provides that in cases of breaches of this kind committed by civilians, the latter are to be handed over by the occupying Power to United Nations forces, who must then hand them over to the Syrian Government through the armistice delegation office. To date, there has not been a single case of such a handover recorded. With regard to the allegations that Syrian Arab Army tanks and personnel carriers were observed in the area of separation: To date, there has not been a single violation of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement involving any such materiel. Any inadvertent violations are dealt with as soon as they are reported by UNDOF command. That has been documented by UNDOF command.

We would, however, like to draw attention to the numerous, continuous and ongoing violations that have been committed by the Israeli occupying forces since the beginning of the terrorist war against Syria, which have been documented by UNDOF command. Following are some of those violations:

- United Nations inspection teams are constantly encountering obstacles created by the Israeli occupying forces. Inspection teams are not allowed to enter the 10 km buffer zone.

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- Israeli occupying forces entered United Nations posts in the northern zone and searched them by force. That has been documented by UNDOF command.
- On numerous occasions, Israeli occupying forces have mustered battalions and brigades in the area adjacent to the northern part of the area of separation with a view to military intervention in Syria. That has been documented by UNDOF command.
- Israeli occupying forces have violated the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement by firing rockets and tank shells directly at Syrian positions and installations on specious pretexts. In many cases, they fire at fortifications belonging to civilian reserve forces that are confronting armed terrorist groups. That is in addition to providing support fire for any attacks by armed terrorist groups against Syrian law enforcement forces.
- On occasions when the Israeli occupying forces have allowed periodic inspections by United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) teams in the 10, 20 and 25 km zones, they have created numerous obstacles to inspections in certain areas. Those inspections revealed the following violations:
  - Four mobile artillery systems with ranges in excess of 20 km were deployed in the 10 km zone.
  - Two mobile rocket-launcher systems with ranges in excess of 20 km were deployed in the 20 km zone.
  - A Pereh missile carrier was deployed in the area of limitation of forces in the 10 km zone.
  - Two Iron Dome missile systems were deployed in the 10 km zone.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that it abides by the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement, in the light of the various international resolutions and United Nations Security Council resolutions affirming that the occupied Syrian Golan is an integral part of the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic. The Syrian Government implements the provisions of that agreement scrupulously. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the United Nations, and in particular the Security Council, to take urgent measures to stop the ongoing Israeli attacks and violations against the entire territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, and to compel Israel to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 497 (1981), and withdraw from the entire occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative
Ambassador